

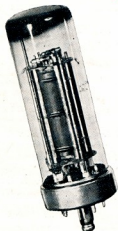
# AMATEUR RADIO

APRIL

1950

JOURNAL OF THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

**Now Arrived . . .**



A New Quick Heating Valve  
for Mobile Services

## PHILIPS QQCO4/15

The new Philips Double Tetrode type QQCO4/15 combines compactness, stability, and maximum output at 186 Mc/s.

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Anode voltage .....	400 V.	Screen current .....	8 mA.
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*Available Next Month—the QQEO6/40*

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**9<sub>D</sub>**

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APRIL . . . 1950

Vol. 18. No. 4

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# AMATEUR RADIO

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## EDITORIAL



### THIS CONTEST BUSINESS

Federal Executive are at times called upon to express their opinions on behalf of the Wireless Institute of Australia when dealing with the I.A.R.U. in the matter of Contests in which the Australian Amateur may be involved. It is, of course, essential that these expressions should be based upon a correct evaluation of the general Amateur feeling on this matter.

The obvious way to do this would be to hold a poll, but while this matter is important, it does not at the moment warrant the expense involved. We, therefore, feel that a deviation from our general method of laying down a policy in these columns can be altered in this case to elicit comments in the form of a "quiz." Federal Executive consequently would like to know:

#### DO YOU THINK CONTESTS—

Are enjoyable?  
Promote International friendship?  
Encourage rare DX to come out of hibernation?  
Populate the Amateur Bands to good effect?  
Improve operating technique?  
Encourage breaches of regulations regarding power?  
Improve equipment design?  
Develop certificate ego?  
Depose common courtesy and Amateur manners?  
Overcrowd already restricted bands?  
Cause domestic strife?  
Serve a useful purpose?  
Develop mathematical genius?  
Are too numerous?  
Should be confined to the v.h.f. bands?

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Your answers to these questions, either direct to the Federal Secretary or the Correspondence Column of this Magazine will be most helpful for the future guidance of your Federal Executive. No doubt many other aspects, not covered above, will occur to you when reading this, and any comments or suggestions will be appreciated.

Remember that only by your reactions to the above, can a correct and comprehensive formulation of opinion be obtained for the execution of future W.I.A. policy.

—Federal Executive.

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# Homecrafts

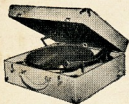
PTY LTD.

## LARGEST STOCK GREATEST BARGAINS



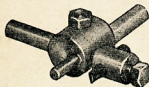
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These Gramo Units as illustrated, 12 Gns. complete. 52/- deposit, 3/6 weekly.



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Beautiful walnut piano finish standard model, £13/19/6. Model with deep well for record changer, £14/7/-. Also available in blonde finish. Standard model, £16/9/6. Model with deep well for record changer, £16/17/-. Country and Interstate clients add 15/- packing charge.



### CAR RADIO KIT

Homecrafts' Car Radio Kit. Special concession offer of this kit, complete to the last nut and bolt, only 18 Gns., as illustrated.



### RADIO KNOBS

Bargain in Radio Knobs, large sized Knobs, 5d. each.

COUNTRY AND INTERSTATE CLIENTS PLEASE ADD FREIGHT OR POSTAGE.



### JUMBO TYPE SOCKETS

These Valve Sockets, suitable for 211B, etc., as illustrated, 28/6 each.



### VIBRATORS

12 volt Non-Synchronous Vibrators, standard type. Usually 50/-, cut to only 9/11.



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Again available. English D104 High Fidelity Crystal Microphones. As illustrated, only 24/19/6.



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### GOOD NEWS FOR RECORDING ENTHUSIASTS



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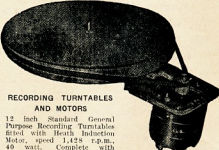


### MECHANOID CUTTING HEAD

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Type 746 Twin Diode . . . . . 15/-  
Type 807 Beam Power Amplifier . . . . . 15/6

Type 42 SPT 4x. Cosmocond pentode 13/5  
Type 5BP1 6.3v. Cathode Ray: 5 in. screen, elect. deflection . . . 37/6 plus sales Tax  
Type 7C3 Triple Grid 6.3v. 8-pin lock-in 15/-  
Type 2X2 High Vacuum Rectifier, 4-pin, 15/6  
Type 834 7.5v. 4-pin Power Amplifier . . 29/3  
Type 6SH7 Sharp Cut Off RF Pentode . . 15/-  
Type 211 10v. Jumbo, 4-pin Power Triode, 27/3  
Type 830R 10v. Triode, 600 watt . . . 24/-  
ALL PRICES INCLUDE EXCISE

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Central 4311

## BY CECIL C. WARING,\* VK3YW

Page 3

plifier. This is possible because with the values shown, there is a bias of about 10 volts on the phase inverter.

The p.p. output from the 6SN7 is then fed via a pair of 0.004  $\mu$ F. condensers through a speech filter to the number three grids of the 6SA7 balanced modulators.

The filter, which consists simply of a 100,000 ohm resistor and a 0.0015  $\mu$ F. condenser in each audio lead, gives an attenuation of approximately 6 db per octave in the middle voice range, and converts the inherent phase modulation characteristic of the modulators with f.m., that is to say the deviation is essentially proportional to the amplitude of the modulating voltage, and does not increase with audio frequency as would be the case in true p.m.

The p.p. output from the filter is applied as noted to the number three grids of the 6SA7, and when one audio signal is driven positive, the other is negative. The r.f. output of the tube receiving the positive audio signal will be predominant and as a result there will be a shift in phase in the output circuit. Just how much will depend largely on the magnitude of the audio signal and the Q of the associated tank circuit.

A Q of 20 is a desirable figure, and this in turn demands a capacity of about 50 pF. for 3.5 Mc. As the output capacity of the 6SA7 is approximately 24 pF., it means a small value of condenser across the coil. This is not just academic theory, as a noticeable decrease in deviation was demonstrated with a higher value of condenser.

Condition 3 is well satisfied by this circuit, particularly on the audio side, and is probably due to the fact that there is no direct connection between the audio section and the related r.f. circuit and to the fact that the No. 3 grids are screened by grids No. 2 and 4 and by-passed to earth by the 0.0015  $\mu$ F. condensers.

In operation this exciter is followed by from two to four stages depending on the output frequency. Its own output is not very high and is normally link-coupled to an 807, which drives another 807 for 3.5 Mc. work, or other doubler tubes for higher frequency operation.

#### POINTS TO WATCH

A must for any n.b.f.m. signal is a clean carrier. Each stage should be checked for parasites and if any found, eliminated before any attempt at modulation is made. Apart from this, the only other item is to make sure each stage is tuned right on the nose.

On the audio side check the circuit for hum, as this will also do its own modulation, and in the case of doubling to higher frequencies, the hum volume will increase with the frequency. The audio line up as it stands is not subject to this trouble, however, owing to the small coupling condenser.

The r.f. stages following the exciter can be ordinary class C amplifiers or if you are troubled with harmonics, the lower harmonic output of the class B amplifiers are an attractive proposition.

Having got our clean and hum-free carrier, audio can be applied to the

exciter and the bandwidth checked. There is no need whatever to put the exciter on the air to do this, simply put the unit on the bench and tune the receiver to the operating band and adjust the deviation control until a satisfactory voice level is heard. On 3.5 Mc. this might be difficult unless the receiver is well shielded. Here a Class C Wavemeter is used and the bandwidth judged against the width of the unmodulated carrier. Final tests were then carried out on the air and checked up fairly well, so you will not be far out. On 3.5 Mc. the deviation control is almost full on (about 90%); on 7 Mc. only 50%, and on 14 Mc. much less. It was originally intended to build up an audio oscillator and check the deviation as described in the "A.R.R.L. Handbook," but difficulty of getting delivery of coils has stopped that.

One point to be watched is overload or unbalance in the audio stages, which shows up as kicking meters, particularly in the grid circuit of the final.

Persistent distortion in the early tests was due to the plate and cathode resistors being far off the indicated values and resulted in one 6SA7 getting much more audio drive than the other. All meters should be rock steady—upward modulation is out.

The lack of b.c.i. is one of the items put forward on the credit side of n.b.f.m. and certainly reduces types of interference. N.b.f.m. certainly does reduce b.c.i., but it is no cure-all.

If b.c.i. is caused by harmonics of the b.c. receiver beating with the fundamental or harmonics of the transmitter, the spots will still get through. Their strength will depend largely on the selectivity of the b.c. set's i.f. If the b.c.i. is due to rectification effects caused by the shape of a modulated envelope, the trouble will certainly disappear. There seems to be no splatter and splutter as when one is too close to a strong a.m. phone station and it is quite possible to leave the receiver running while the n.b.f.m. transmitter is in operation and hear nothing from it in the speaker. This would be quite impossible to do on a.m.

#### RECEIVING N.B.F.M.

On the receiving side, n.b.f.m. transmitters are in a much better position than the boys using s.s.c. as any reasonably selective receiver will do a good job of work. If the receiver tuning is broad, the voice content of the signal will appear low, but such receivers seem to be very few and far between.

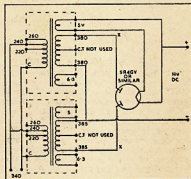
It was thought here that a n.b.f.m. discriminator would be a big improvement, but after careful listening with and without the discriminator there seemed to be very little in favor of its use.

With the n.b.f.m. permitted in our two domestic bands, the a.m. receivers do a really excellent job and no difficulty has been experienced in working through QRM or QRN. In most cases it was not realised at the receiving end that n.b.f.m. was being used, 75% of stations contacted had to be told, and to the writer's mind n.b.f.m. has many

## H.V. Power Supplies

Many Hams are apparently overlooking a very useful way of obtaining a high voltage power transformer from standard b.c. parts. The idea is to connect the separate h.v. secondaries of two similar full-wave transformers as separate halves of a secondary of twice the voltage. A glance at the diagram will show how the h.t. for that 813 can be obtained from standard b.c. transformers.

The windings must be connected so as to feed the plates of the rectifier out of phase, otherwise the supply will merely be two half-wave rectifiers in parallel. To check this, connect an a.c. voltmeter between the points marked X. If it reads zero, switch off, reverse the connections to one primary or secondary, then switch on again. The voltmeter should now read a voltage which is twice that of one transformer.



These b.c. transformers normally come with a h.v. secondary of 385, 325 or 285 volts "aside." By using two transformers, 770, 650 or 570 volts "aside" can be obtained. The insulation between windings and to core in any reputable transformer is ample to stand up to this method of operation.

Here, at VK2OA, two 385-385 v. 125 Ma. b.c. transformers are being used to provide 850 v. at 125 Ma. to an 813 and still ran cold even after 24 hours continuous operation in the DX Contest, and they have been in operation now for over a year.—VK2OA, R. M. Winch, 38 Boundary St., Parramatta, N.S.W.

advantages which could be well followed up by the thoughtful Amateur.

This article has been written with the idea of stimulating interest in n.b.f.m. and the promotion of discussion thereon. It has been asserted that n.b.f.m. is only equivalent to an a.m. transmitter modulated 25%, maybe in theory it is, as after all the only source of power is the carrier and from the carrier is extracted the necessary power for the sidebands. In fact it is quite possible to reach a stage when the transmission is all sidebands and no carrier at all, but such conditions are not for n.b.f.m. However 25% a.m. equivalent or not, the n.b.f.m. is quite capable of putting as good a signal through QRM or QRN as any other type.

# An Inexpensive Modulation Indicator

BY C. GIBSON,\* VK3FO

The indicator to be described was the outcome of a few hours' spare time and use of some junk box bits and pieces. The modern receiver selectivity, with the addition of Q5'ers, pre-selectors, and crystal filters, still reveals that all is not right with a large number of Ham phone transmitters.

Lopsided modulation is the main cause of the trouble and in the absence of a c.r.o., or pan-adaptor, this indicator was evolved. This lopsided modulation is simply the result of improper operation of the transmitter, causing numbers of spurious sidebands to be radiated which occupy plenty of kilocycles beyond the frequency range a good phone signal should occupy, hence high selectivity is no proof against these sidebands.

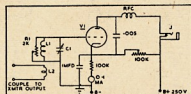
When the receiver is tuned to a station badly affected with this carrier shift, or over-modulation, these sidebands are identified by a peculiar kind of distortion that damages the quality of the phone, despite the fact there may be excellent microphone and speech equipment in the transmitter. We learn that for correct modulation, the average amplitude of the wave must remain unchanged; that is it should be the same with the carrier modulated, as it is for an unmodulated carrier.

Apart from a c.r.o. or pan-adaptor, no meter ordinarily used will give us a true indication of this condition. An r.f. meter will not do it, as it only shows effective current values and not average value; it will kick up when the average is actually shifting down. The final plate meter does, however, show something, by either kicking up or down when it should remain steady, but its indications are hard to interpret.

What we want is some simple and inexpensive device to show what is

happening to the carrier. As c.r.o.'s and pan-adaptors are expensive and sometimes hard to get going, we set out to see what could be done with a few parts from the junk box. To this end, we thought about a one-tube non-regenerative detector, or in other words a vacuum-tube voltmeter.

This gadget is easily constructed and very simple to use, and is worth a place in any shack.



- L1 C1—Coil and condenser to tune to transmitter frequency (Plug-in coils).
- L2. Coupling Coil—Two turns at ground end of L1.
- R.F.C.—Short wave type.
- J—Single circuit (closed type) for listening.
- V1—6CS, 6J5, 56, 27, 409, etc.
- Phones—High resistance type.

We know that the plate current is directly proportional to the average value of the r.f. input to the grid. If the average shifts upward, the plate current increases, or vice versa, so all we have to do is hook in this "gadget" and look, see and listen.

The resistor R3 makes it possible to set the minimum bias and also that the

tube draws almost zero current with no signal on the grid. Shielded leads should be used to couple the indicator to the transmitter output circuit.

The coupling at the transmitter end, and the resistor R1, are adjusted so that the meter reads about four- to five-tenths of one milliampere, assuming a plate voltage of 250.

The circuit, C1 L1, should not be detuned from resonance. Over-modulation is shown if the meter kicks upwards, hence back off the gain control on the modulator. If the meter kicks downwards, then look to the transmitter.

For best operation the unit should be enclosed in a metal box.

In all, this little unit is the answer to a simple, but highly, efficient modulation indicator.

## Low Drift Crystals FOR AMATEUR BANDS

ACCURACY 0.02% OF STATED FREQUENCY

3.5 Mc. and 7 Mc.

Unmounted ..... £2 0 0

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12.5 and 14 Mc. Fundamental Crystals, "Low Drift," Mounted only, £5.

Spot Frequency Crystals Prices on Application.

Regrinds ..... £1 0 0

THESE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX.

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Price List on request.

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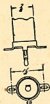
67 YARRA BANK ROAD, SOUTH MELBOURNE

Phone MX 4621 (5 lines).

Telegrams: "Metals," Melbourne.

**UCC****ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS****INFORMATION BULLETIN**

Type 51-130. Pigtail Type—universally used in any position where capacitors can be supported on tinned copper pig-tails. Capacitor body is insulated.



Type 51-134. Flanged Clamp—used where above chassis mounting is required and capacitor is earthed. Capacitor body is not insulated.



Type 51-126. Insulated Flange—used for above chassis mounting and where capacitor is insulated for bias supplies. Capacitor body insulated.



Type 51-101. Twist Lug—used for above chassis mounting by inserting lugs through slots and twisting to hold in position.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Capacity Tolerance: —10% + 40%.
2. Power Factor: 15% max.
3. Max. Operating Leakage: 0.1 mA/mfd.
4. Max. Operating Temp.: 145° F.
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# Agenda Items for 20th Federal Convention

The Twentieth Federal Convention of the Wireless Institute of Australia is to be held in Melbourne from 7th April to the 10th April, 1950. Following is a list of the agenda items to be discussed:

## AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, Etc.

1. F.E.—That the amended rules of the DX C.C., as attached in Appendix "A", be adopted.
2. VK6—That the rules of the DX C.C. be discussed with a view to removing existing anomalies.
3. F.E.—That this Council consider the issue of special Certificates of Merit to individual members for outstanding work on behalf of the Institute and that at each Convention the names of members proposed be submitted by Divisions.

4. VK7—That, if possible, an International organisation for controlling DX C.C. matters be set up through the I.A.R.U. Failing this, the Australian DX C.C. be based on the A.R.R.L. rules and countries list with variations if necessary to suit the Australian organisation.

5. VK7—That separate country status for Tasmania be re-opened.

## CONTESTS

6. VK2—That a standard set of rules be adopted for each of the major contests held during the year.

7. VK2—That draft proposals for any changes in the standard contest rules for the VK-ZL Contest be circulated to all Divisions at least five months before the Contest.

8. VK2—That draft proposals for any changes in rules of local contests be circulated to all Divisions at least three months before the Contest.

9. F.E.—That for future N.F.D. Contests the bonus points for 50 Mc. contacts be altered to give 25 points for each new State or Country contacted and not 50 points per contact as at present.

10. VK7—That the I.A.R.U. be approached with a view to limiting International Contests to those conducted by National Societies only, and that they be restricted to one week-end for c.w. and one for phone per year.

11. VK5—That the number and duration of various contests being held in Australia be discussed, with a view to a curtailment of the number of contests and their duration. It is suggested that the period of any contest be limited to any 12 hours in 24.

12. VK4—That the W.I.A. deplores the multiplicity of contests now being imposed on the Amateur bands, as with the development of low frequency bands the original desirability of International DX Contest no longer exists. The W.I.A. now proposes the abandonment of all present contests and the substitution of one World Wide Contest on bands below (lower in frequency) 21 Mc. between

January and March, conducted along the lines of the "CQ" Contest, instead of one country versus the rest, and that I.A.R.U. be approached as well as the National Societies to put this into effect as from 0001 G.M.T. 1st January, 1951.

13. F.E.—That the scoring procedure for the award of the State Trophy for the R.D. Contest, as used in the 1948 Contest, be reverted to.

14. VK6—That the existing rules for the 1950 R.D. Contest, with respect to the method of scoring remain unaltered.

15. F.E.—That a discussion take place on ways and means of popularising the N.F.D. Contest, with the introduction of new rules, if necessary.

16. VK6—That an endeavour be made to evolve a standard numbering system for world-wide contest use.

## MAGAZINE MATTERS

17. VK6—That all relevant aspects of the publication of "Amateur Radio," from a Federal viewpoint, be discussed with the Victorian Division.

18. VK2—That the responsibilities of Federal Council concerning the policy of "Amateur Radio" be determined.

19. VK5—That the quarterly statement, as now supplied on the income and expenditure of "Amateur Radio," be continued.

20. VK2—That "Amateur Radio" publish, from time to time, suitable articles taken from overseas technical magazines.

## POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

21. F.E.—That matters of policy laid down at previous Conventions will not be changed for two years after making such policy, and then only after majority decision of Federal Council. Further, that all policy matters be discussed at each Convention to ascertain their usefulness or otherwise.

22. VK2—That the Uniform Divisional Constitution be discussed with a view to finalising it if possible.

23. VK5—That in matters of finance, involving all Divisions in Australia, a majority vote of at least 5 to 2 of the Federal Council be required for the passing of the motion.

24. VK5—That the minutes of the Federal Executive meetings, as now supplied to all Federal Councillors, be continued.

25. VK2—That Federal Executive formulate arrangements for the reception and entertainment of American Amateurs in "Back to Australia" year, 1952.

26. VK6—That the 1951 Convention be held in Sydney.

27. VK2—That Federal Executive approach the P.M.G. for permission to play back recorded Amateur transmis-

sions on the Amateur bands from 50 Mc. and higher.

28. VK3—That representations be made to the P.M.G.'s Dept. for permission to play back "over the air" of recordings made by wire or other means of other Amateur Stations.

29. VK2—That conditions governing the play back of Amateur transmissions be fully publicised in "Amateur Radio."

30. VK2—That the P.M.G. be approached for permission to transmit music for experimental purposes on sections of the 50 Mc. band and higher.

31. VK5—That the P.M.G.'s Dept. be approached with a request that all licensees in the Northern Territory be allotted the prefix VK8.

32. VK4—That F.E. be asked to endeavour to speed up the allocation of the 21 Mc. band in view of the large amount of commercial interference on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

33. VK2—That Federal Executive approach the P.M.G. for permission to broadcast from the Institute stations, talks of a technical nature, such as those given at monthly meetings.

34. VK5—That the matter of t.v.i. be discussed with a view to suggesting certain i.f. frequencies to manufacturers in Australia.

35. VK6—That the P.M.G.'s Dept. be approached to extend automatic permission for portable operation to the 27-28 Mc. band.

36. VK3—That representations be made to the P.M.G.'s Dept. for permission to operate transmitters under portable conditions without applying for a portable licence, in any frequency band.

37. VK7—That the age limit for the issuance of the A.O.C.P. and the granting of an Amateur Station Licence be reduced to 16 years.

38. VK3—That representations be made to the P.M.G.'s Dept. for permission to use high power components in normal 100 watt transmitters.

39. F.E.—That the "gentlemen's agreement" band for c.w. on the 7 Mc. band be extended to 7050 Kc. in view of the emergency network phone on 7002 Kc.

40. VK7—That approval be sought from the P.M.G. for the use of an identifying signal for Amateurs conducting emergency communications. The signal to have the significance: "I am conducting emergency traffic, please do not cause interference," and that F.E. be instructed to give the signal wide publicity.

41. VK3—That a discussion take place on interference received from medium frequency broadcast transmitters.

42. VK7—That this Council recommends that phonetics be only used where necessary and that the A.R.R.L. list be recommended as being known throughout the world. F.E. should publicise this decision.

# FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

This month we have the results of two events that have occupied the attention of v.h.f. operators for some months past.

## V.H.F. DX CONTEST

OPEN SECTION	
1st—VK4BT .....	3887 points.
2nd—VR2ABC .....	3741 "
3rd—VK6WG .....	2995 "

STATE WINNERS	
VK2ABO .....	3741 points.
VK3IM .....	3187 "
VK4BT .....	3387 "
VK5QR .....	2698 "
VK6WG .....	2995 "
VK7XL .....	1535 "
ZL2DS .....	2008 "

Our congratulations to the winners and it is unanimously agreed that the Marathon was highly successful.

## VICTORIAN V.H.F. MARATHON

### OPEN SECTION

1st—VK3RR .....	5951 points.
2nd—VK3NW .....	5890 "

50 Mc. Section—VK3RR .....	1147 points.
144 " " VK3ABA .....	444 "
958 " " VK3ED .....	247 "
570 " " VK3RR .....	247 "
Over 570 Mc. VK3NW .....	4 "

Once again hearty congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who assisted by sending in logs. Details of prizes which have been generously donated will appear in next month's "Amateur Radio."

## TASMANIAN V.H.F. MEN HIT THE HEADLINES!

The front page of the *Launceston "Examiner"*, dated Monday, 5th March, features a three column spread, complete with photographs of the two metre tests from Mount Barrow, conducted on Sunday, 4th March, by TFF, TDB, TAM, and Associate Rex Summers. The "Examiner," one of the oldest daily newspapers in Australia has shown considerable interest in the tests and has given very good support in the shape of extremely well-written publicity, and also by supplying a car to carry the gear and their equipment to Mt. Barrow when their own transport arrangements broke down. Our photograph is by courtesy of the *Launceston "Examiner"* and shows Don Brooks (TDB), with mike, and Pete Firth (TFF) on location at Mt. Barrow. The following account of the day's doings was written by TFF.

On Sunday, 5th March, TFF, TDB, TAM and Associate Rex Summers travelled the 26 miles to Mt. Barrow, east of Launceston, taking 144 Mc. portable gear. The object of the trip was to bridge

Basin Strait on 144 Mc. and to attempt to contact TDB and TAJ at Mt. Wellington, near Hobart, both mountains being about 4,000 feet high and about 100 miles apart.

This was our first trip out portable on 144 Mc. and many things were learnt. The equipment consisted of three transmitters, two receivers, two modulators and two beams. The transmitters consisted of 144 Mc. rig belonging to Rex Summers with an 829 in final. Another 144 Mc. rig of TDB using an 835 final, and a 7 Mc. rig belonging to TFF. The receivers were a complete 144 Mc. receiver of TDB, and a normal superhet with a cascade converter 6AK5-6AK6-6A6, and a broad-band converter 6AK5-6AK6-6A6. The aerials were a 3 element parasitic and a 4 element "leado." The power supply was a 240 v. a.c. petrol engine driven generator with normal transformer power supplies.

The top of the mountain was reached at about 12 a.m. The sun was shining, but it was very cold. The extreme cold was our downfall as the two-stroke engine would not deliver the power. TDB's transmitter was tried and it was found that the voltage was too low, the crystal oscillator refusing to oscillate. The receiver using a cascade converter was put into use and at 1330 a tone modulated signal was heard from the south which may have been TLEL. Lunch was then partaken of, a listen being made at 1400 hours in the VK3 direction. TDB reports that at 1407 he heard a VK7 signal, but could not get complete call. At that time we were not on, but it is believed that TDB, TAJ were on at that time. If TDB heard them, the distance would be about 390 miles.

At 1430 a signal was heard but could not be identified but we believe it was TAJ. None at 1430 a QSO and at that time he was describing his receiver as a crystal controlled converter feeding into a superhet receiver. As no one in VK3 was in QSO at that time, we believe that it may have been a VK3, so if anyone owns that signal we would like to know. The reception was hampered by rain which was charged and produced QRN.

The transmitter by this time was working, but with the stage after the crystal oscillator oscillating instead of the crystal. At 1600 TAJ/TDB was heard calling us and contact was made, reports being RA 85 in both cases, the input to our rig being 10 watts with the three element beam.

In attempting to increase power we got further into trouble and gave up the transmitting. At 1655 TLEL at Western Junction was heard at 87 and TAJ/TDB heard again at 1658 at 38. The gear was packed up at 1600 hours.

The operating was done inside a covered truck, the weather varying from rain to hail at the same time being extremely cold. A lot has been learnt and in the future another attempt is to be made with many alterations in gear being put into effect.

## PORTABLE OPERATION FROM CAPE SCHANK

The date for the trip to Cape Schank (some 470 feet above sea level) by VK3 3RR, 3ACL and 3CR has been fixed for Sunday, 10th April. Although the prime intention of this visit is to attempt to establish contact with VK1 on 50 and 144 Mc. and 80 metre band, a 110 Mc. field day so that communication can be maintained if results on the v.h.f. bands do not work out as anticipated.

Considerable interest has been aroused on both sides of Basin Strait and it is hoped that several other VKs will participate. New South Wales has also fixed 10th April as a 110 Mc. field day so it is hoped that, conditions permitting, some records will be broken and some new ones made.

## 50 Mc. ACTIVITY

### NEW SOUTH WALES

The most interesting news seems to be the return of the DX. Saturday 4th, at 1715, 2ABC contacted KH4PP. Then Saturday 11th the 2Ls were being contacted again. Also, the stations heard and worked by Jack 2ABT included VK3, VK4, VK7 as well as 2Ls. Sydney stations contacted VK3.

Ground wave contacts have been good. JJU worked 2PN for a QSO which allowed good phone discussion. Then 2Ls contacted 2Ls on 50 with Sydney 2JU and 2AH, and heard well by 2Ls. 2GL continues to get through to Sydney almost any time and is continuing to make long-distance ground-wave station. It is hoped to hear Hugo 2WH, of Forbes, N.S.W., and he can contact 2Ls on 50. The 2Ls are also making the 40 metre net fame, is believed to be building some 6 metre gear. 2AMV, also of Forbes, will be using 834 v.h.f. with newly built 2Ls (Bathurst). 2WH and 2AMV (Forbes) 2S8 (Bathurst) and maybe others unknown at present but interested to try the v.h.f. and escape the QRM of DX bands.

The V.H.F. (W.I.A.) Section held their meeting at 8 p.m. on 10/3/50 (second Friday in the month remember). Attendance was 39 with six visitors. The evening was devoted to a presentation of the Jeff Stewart, 20X, upon Magnetic Recorders. Jeff had previously recorded his introduction, subject of the evening, in a series of papers, giving technical details and circuits in blackboard style. Mike entertained everybody while data was being transferred from notes to blackboard. The V.H.F. was well thought out and presented lecture which was well received.

### VICTORIA

The evening sack with TAB and TXL has been continued during the month with varying success. 3ACL continues to be the VK3 making most contacts with the VK7s and not many nights were made with signals up to 88. 2XA also been doing good work and although he is not in such a good location as 3ACL, he has worked 2Ls on several occasions and 2Ls. 2ZD, Warragul, has worked TXL on one occasion with 88 signals and has not heard him at workable strength since. Perhaps the best night so far was the 9th of March, when TXL and TAB worked 3BQ, 300, 3XA and 3ACL, with signals holding at good strength for two hours.

Apart from the VK7 work, there is little news as far as 50 Mc. in Victoria is concerned, possibly due to many of the regular workers catching up on jobs left undone due to DX and the Contest. Sporadic E appeared to fade out on about the 11th of February, no contacts by this medium having been reported after that date.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Laurel Spöberg (58L) sends the following news from the Upper Murray region. Although these notes are a little out of date, we are publishing them as a matter of general interest. Conditions on 50 Mc. were exceptionally good in this region, particularly from 18 December to 20th January, that is prior to and during the Christmas period. There were break throughs every day except for 10 days in all, when there were either no break throughs or that Hugh (58C) was not able to listen to receiver, etc.

VK4 was the prominent State with regular openings to them, and in particular, 4BT. Noel is usually the first in and was heard first in was made in other State's notes. Other States break about even; not far behind VK4, this includes 4JD, Alice Springs.

2L districts 1 and 2 contacted also with some excellent openings. Same applies to signs from VK7 when hand opened to them. Several very good openings to VK6 also.

(Continued on Page 12)



Don Brooks (TDB), with mike, and Pete Firth (TFF) on location at Mt. Barrow.



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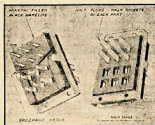
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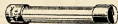
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## (Continued from Page 10)

Amateur Radio April 1950

# FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President: W. R. Gronow, VK3WG; Federal Secretary: W. T. S. Mitchell, VK3UM, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Secretary—Maurie Butler (VK2AAN), Box 1734 G.P.O., Sydney.  
Meeting Night—Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.  
Divisional Sub-Editor—A. Pearce, VK2AIB, 48 Harbortown Ave., Five Dock, N.S.W.  
Zone Correspondents—Nih. Coast & Tablelands: J. M. Retallick, VK2XO, Raleigh; Newcastle: H. Whyte, VK1AH, Vale St., Birmingham Gardens, Newcastle; Coalfields & Lakes: H. Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; Western: W. B. Stitt, VK2WH, Cumblyona, Forbes; South Coast and Southern: R. H. Bayner, VK2DO, 42 Pettit St., Yass; Western Suburbs: A. C. Pearce, VK2AIB, 48 Harbortown Ave., Five Docks; Eastern Suburbs: H. Kerr, VK2AK, No. 4 Pat, 144 Hewlett St., Bronte; North Sydney: L. D. Cuffe, VK2AM, 779 Military Rd., Mosman; St. George: J. A. Ackerman, VK2ALD, 25 Park Rd., Carlton; South Sydney: V. H. Wilson, VK3VW, Cr. Wilson St. and Marine Pde., Maroubra.

## VICTORIA

Secretary—C. C. Quin, VK3WQ.  
Administrative Secretary—Mrs. S. May, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne, G.V.  
Meeting Night—First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melbourne Technical College.  
Zone Correspondents—North Western: R. E. Trebilcock, VK3YL, 132 Victoria St., Kew; Western: C. C. Waring, VK3VW, 12 Skene St., Stawell; South Western: W. H. Ross, VK3UT, 100 Warrack, Warrackbeech; North Eastern: J. A. Miller, VK3ABG, "Eriavale," Avenel; Far North-Western Zone: Harry Dobson, VK3MF, 43 Walnut Ave., Mildura; Eastern Zone: Mrs. F. M. Churchward, VK3US, "Shirley," Red Hill.

## FEDERAL

### DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE	
VK3JD (1)	26 143
VK3RU (2)	27 133
VK3BE (3)	28 129
VK3EY (4)	28 138
VK3EE (10)	121
VK4JP (6)	114
VK4AD (6)	113
VK3ILN (11)	113
VK4HR (12)	35 107
VK3ADT (13)	108
VK3Q (15)	109
VK3JE (7)	100
VK4KS (9)	100

### New Members:

VK4HR (15)	35 107
VK3ADT (13)	108

### C.W.

VK3BE (6)	40 165
VK3EX (1)	40 167
VK4EL (9)	40 140
VK3VW (4)	40 135
VK3QL (5)	40 133
VK3RB (10)	39 129
VK4HR (8)	40 126
VK3PH (5)	38 126
VK3RB (10)	39 129
VK4RF (11)	35 119
VK3TD (2)	40 116
VK3RM (12)	36 114
VK4DA (7)	38 113

### New Member:

VK3RU (23)	37 105
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### OPEN

VK3BE (4)	40 189
VK3EX (1)	40 167
VK4HR (8)	39 165
VK4HR (7)	40 161
VK4DI (2)	40 160
VK3RB (3)	39 158
VK3JE (12)	39 154
VK3EY (13)	39 153
VK4EL (10)	39 150
VK3MO (5)	39 139
VK3OP (19)	39 137
VK3ADE (28)	40 132

### New Member:

VK4PJ (33)	108
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## WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official broadcasts.

VK2WI—Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7196 Kc. and 2000 hours EST, 504 Mc. No frequency checks available from VEWI. Intra-State working frequency, 7175 Kc.

VK3WI—Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3580 and 7196 Kc. and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc. channel is used from VEWI. Intra-State working frequency, 7185 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI—Sundays, 0900 hours E.S.T. simultaneous on 3750 Kc., 7196 Kc., 1432 Kc., 52.4 Mc. and 144.135 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nights weekly, and the times are announced during Sunday broadcasts. 7165 Kc. channel is used from 1000 to 1030 hours each Sunday as VK4 query service to VK4WI.

VK5WI—Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7196 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW on Friday evenings on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

VK6WI—Saturdays 1400 hours, Sundays 0930 hours WAST, on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI—Second and Fourth Sundays at 1000 hours E.S.T. on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks are available.

Congratulations to Tibby, VK4HR, on gaining what is believed to be the second Empire DX C.C. issued by the R.S.G.B. to Australia. Tibby has also just obtained W.A.Z. and W.A.S. (Aust.).

## COUNTRIES LIST

Several new prefixes have been allotted by the French authorities to countries and islands of the Union. Please make the following alterations to the January Countries List.

Antarctica (French) I.E. Adelle Land . FBS  
Clipperton Island (7) . . . . . FOS  
Comoro Islands (9) . . . . . FBS  
Cornica (15) . . . . . (PC)  
Tunisia (33) . . . . . 3VS

Another tentative prefix and a peculiar one is the French Occupation Forces (ZFO) in Austria—FESB.

## 20th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Elsewhere in this issue are shown the various motions submitted by the Divisions for consideration at the Annual Convention of the W.I.A. All members should study these items which concern everyone, and indicate further the present feelings of the Institute.

## SLOW MORSE TRANSMISSIONS

The following transmissions from the official W.I.A. stations are given on 3,504 Kc. on the days and times shown below—

Sunday—VK3WI, 2030 to 2100 hours E.A.S.T.  
Monday—VK3WI, 2000 to 2030 hours E.A.S.T.  
Tuesday—VK4WI, 1930 to 2000 hours E.A.S.T.  
Wednesday—VK6WI, not operating at present.  
Thursday—VK3WI, 1930 to 2000 hours E.A.S.T.  
Friday—VK7WI, 2030 to 2100 hours E.A.S.T.

DIPLOME DE L'UNION FRANCAISE (D.U.F.)

This Certificate has just been announced by the R.E.P. and rules will be published later when the necessary translation is made.

## W.I.A. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

April 7, 8, 10: 20th Annual Federal Convention in Melbourne.  
May 7: Minutes of 20th Convention issued.  
June 3, 4: 1950 Trans-Tasman Contest.  
June 7: Ratification of Convention Items.

## QUEENSLAND

Secretary—W. L. Stevens, VK4TB, Box 6382, G.P.O., Brisbane.  
Meeting Night—Last Friday in each month at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Edward Street, Brisbane.  
Divisional Sub-Editor—F. H. Shannon, VK4SN, Minden, via Rosewood.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Secretary—E. A. Barber, VK5MD, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.  
Meeting Night—Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.  
Divisional Sub-Editor—W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 483 Esplanade, Henley Beach.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Secretary—W. E. Coxon, VK6AG, 7 Howard St., Perth.  
Meeting Place—Fadbury House, Cr. St. George's Ter. and King St., Perth.  
Meeting Night—Watch the Monthly Bulletin.  
Divisional Sub-Editor—George W. Ashley, VK6GA, 33 Mars Street, Carlisle, Western Australia.

## TASMANIA

Secretary—R. D. O'May, VK7OM, Box 871B, G.P.O., Hobart.  
Meeting Night—First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool St., Hobart.  
Divisional Sub-Editor—Capt. E. J. Cruise, VK7EJ, Angelsea Barracks, Hobart.  
Northern Correspondent: C. P. Wright, VK7LS, 3 Knight St., Launceston.

## CALL SIGN AMENDMENT LISTS

The Department have notified us that Supplement No. 2 (a 15 page issue) is available on application. Monthly amendment lists will be supplied to the Executive for inclusion in "Amateur Radio," as of yore. All Amateurs should then be able to keep their call books up-to-date.

## FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

The following is a list of the bands available for use by the Amateur Service in Australia, followed by the types of emission allowed on these bands.

3.5 to 7.0	3.5 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
7.0 to 14.0	7.2 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
14.0 to 18.0	14.4 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
18.0 to 28.0	27.2 Mc.—A1, 3, FM.
28.0 to 50.0	30.0 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
50.0 to 144	84.0 Mc.—A1, 2, 3, FM.
144 to 158	148 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
158 to 176	160 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
176 to 188	180 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
188 to 256	200 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
256 to 276	260 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
276 to 288	280 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
288 to 320	300 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
320 to 350	340 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
350 to 360	360 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
360 to 380	380 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
380 to 400	400 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
400 to 420	420 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
420 to 440	440 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
440 to 460	460 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
460 to 480	480 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
480 to 500	500 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
500 to 520	520 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
520 to 540	540 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
540 to 560	560 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
560 to 580	580 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
580 to 600	600 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
600 to 620	620 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
620 to 640	640 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
640 to 660	660 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
660 to 680	680 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
680 to 700	700 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
700 to 720	720 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
720 to 740	740 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
740 to 760	760 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
760 to 780	780 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
780 to 800	800 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
800 to 820	820 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
820 to 840	840 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
840 to 860	860 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
860 to 880	880 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
880 to 900	900 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
900 to 920	920 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
920 to 940	940 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
940 to 960	960 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
960 to 980	980 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
980 to 1000	1000 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.

Note—6F3 emission represents a maximum deviation from the quiescent frequency of plus or minus 3 Kc.

## FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER  
(23 Lonsdale Street, Box Hill, Vic.)

A large consignment of cards has arrived from Greenland. These should be especially welcome to a number of DX C.C. applicants.

Such is the feeling between VU and AP that the Indian QSL Bureau, Box 6666, Bombay, will not accept or forward cards addressed to AP stations, but returns them to the country of origin with the endorsement "will not accept cards for AP now, sir. Please note AP Bureau is not, repeat not, via India, Pakistan separate Dominion, send via AFPS only." Divisional QSL Managers please note.

The QSL Bureau address for Morocco is: "Relais QSL Marocain, CNRAK, 13 Rue Lascas, Casablanca, Morocco."

John, CR9AG, is pushing off from Macao in about three months and will probably sign VS9AG soon after his arrival back in Hong Kong.

Max Meyers, W2BIB, in forwarding twenty second request cards to VK3 stations, writes, "What the heck is the matter with the VK3 boys, no QSLs yet received from them."

Further re Syd Clark, VSICW, ex-VK3SC, Syd in a letter to a VK3 station says that VK stations romp in at strength 7 to 9 24 hours a day in Seletar on either 7, 14 or 28 Mc. with a climax in the evenings on 14 Mc. when that band is practically unusable due to VK and ZL QRM. Syd claims that VKs are so persistent that it is well nigh impossible for him to work any other DX and while he has no objections to working VK stations, he also likes to work other countries. He claims VKs ignore his directional calls and either answer him or r.f.o. on his frequency and call CQ DX. He considers VKs should not answer his CQ DX calls (with this I do not agree—BRJ) as he considers VK is not DX to him. Without condoning the tactics he complains of, it does appear that he works other DX, as he claims a c.w. score of 145 countries worked and the inflexible use by him of QRM, QLM, etc. would soon remove his grounds for complaint. Maybe, however, only an exclusive band reservation would satisfy his desires. When he returns to C shortly, Syd will probably be at the other end of the argument and can then decide whether local or DX QRM is preferable. At the present time Syd is only sending cards via Bureau on receipt of cards as he has found this more equitable than the indiscriminate QSL method he formerly observed. Good hunting from G land, Syd.

QSL traffic via the Federal Bureau during the fiscal year ended February, 1950, shows a drop of 7,000 cards over the previous year. This is attributed to the continued publicity given to the QTH of Divisional Bureaus and to an increase in direct exchanges of cards. The larger circulation of the Call Book Magazine has helped in the latter respect. Despite the drop in QSL traffic the Federal Bureau still handles 56,000 cards per annum.

"Chuck" Clarke, KM6AO, of Midway Island, wishes publicity for his mailing address. It is: KM6AO, C. A. Clarke, Navy 1504, care F.P.O., San Francisco, Calif., U.S.A.

It is refreshing and comforting to know that at least two readers of "Amateur Radio" peruse these notes. The par in the March issue requesting the QTH of VK3ACD brought two responses within a few days of the publication of the issue. My thanks VK4LZ and also Eric Tobillocock. Apropos Eric, he is still located in a civilised area, to wit, Melbourne, and running a D.C.A. training school. Is perturbed by the presence in his home QTH street of two active Hams. I will gladly exchange my 0730/1830 continuous Monday to Friday pilot or arc welder QRM, for his two nearby Hams. The Department offers me its sympathy in the matter, but regrets it cannot do anything to relieve the position. It seems a one-sided arrangement for a Ham causing QRM is soon silenced, but an industrial concern can go on causing QRM indefinitely until it causes interference on the broadcast band.

A large batch of cards from Abyssinia or Ethiopia has just come to hand. The cards are very informative as to the political geography of the capital, Addis Ababa. It has been a good month for the DX hounds.

Further to Federal Notes last month on FB8AX situated at Adelle Land, Antarctica, comes news of the French Mission stations FB8XX on Kerguelon Island and FB8ZC on Amsterdam Island. These two stations are greatly in demand by the DX gang, but frequencies are not to hand as yet. FB8EG, in Lome, Togoland, is reported by the R.E.F. to be active on 14 and 38 Mc. and FLA8D on 7 Mc. Another is FB8AC in Cayenne, French Guiana, active on 14040 c.w. and 14300 phone. VK8AG, in

Innsbruck, Austria, has been contacted on 14030 c.w. He is apparently one of the French Occupational Force stations.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

The monthly meeting of the Division was held at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney, on Friday, 24th February. There was a packed house and after settling down, a most interesting lecture entitled, "How Many Volts" was given by Mr. J. M. Moyle, VK3JU.

Many points on filter and power supply problems were covered and super-modulation, modulation capabilities and reasons for over-modulation and spatter were keenly discussed. In this latter department, Mr. Moyle was ably assisted by Mr. George Mully. Considerable finesse was displayed by Mr. Moyle in keeping to his chosen subject in the face of enthusiastic questions asked by members.

An appeal was made for extended use of the higher frequency bands (notably 558 and 576 Mc.) before we lose them by default.

Simplicity of gear required was particularly stressed, and a 288 Mc. receiver using Lecher bars was exhibited and passed around, together with photographs of a companion transmitter using 7193k. It was pointed out that low power is not a disadvantage.

Mr. J. M. Moyle, VK3JU, was elected N.S.W. representative to the Federal Council and will attend the next Federal Convention to be held in Melbourne commencing 7th April, 1950. Mr. J. Corbin, VK3YC, will also attend with the status of Official Observer.

It was decided that in the opinion of this Division, VK5 should not be considered as a separate country.

The W.I.A. North Coast Convention will be held at Urunga over the 8th, 9th and 10th April, 1950, and over one hundred visitors from N.S.W., Vic., Qld. and South Aus. are expected. The local progress Association is putting out a helping hand, so help swell the population and join in the fun.

Keen disappointment was expressed over lack of support for the recent National Field Day. Perhaps, now that petrol rationing has been dispensed with, some of those men with transport and a yearning for the great outdoors will assist to make the next outing a bumper show.

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## By Keith Scott, VK3SS

2TC again active, so guess the noise from the  
b. lines must have abated. Monty, 2JQ, and  
Bob, 2MM, have been heard talking about "Silver  
Bells" and 30 metres, they also mentioned  
"The Christmas Song" and 2SU12. The theme song of  
2MM in the days when recordings were part of  
Amateur Radio transmissions. 2ER, 2GA and the  
latter's XYL are holidaying in VK5. They dropped  
out for a few days but are back now. The  
train attracted the attention of both  
Ces and John (2NS please note, this train does  
not run through the main street). Notes this  
month have been a fair bit of the central  
area. 2A12D, but we should have  
more notes by next month.

The March general meeting was held on Wednesday, 1st March, at the usual place, the Radio Theatre, Melbourne Technical School. The attendance was rather small owing to the tram strike about 100 members being present. Mr. Harold Webber (3PW) occupied the chair. The meeting got away to a late start owing to the QSL Department handing out cards.

The QSL manager reported that there are quite a lot of cards awaiting collection and he would be grateful if the boys would collect same. 3LH, the Secretary of the V.H.F. Group, spoke on the field day for 5th March, also other v.h.f. activities.

Glad to report that 3BH is out of hospital and giving great guns. SUG is back on the air with new rig. Another to make a return to the air is 3RK. 3EN has erected a new tower and beam. 3PF is still in Central Australia, doing a spot of work for the R.A.A.F. 3ARL has been transferred to Stawell. 3QK down at Churchill Island. 3OQRM on 20 metre c.w. 6DX is holding his VEQ. 3AQ having a spot of holidays (1) and thinking of a return to the air. 3AG is on the air. The latest member sporting a new car is Jack Groves. Ham Radio seems to have taken a back seat, not the back seat of the car either!

The February meeting was held in the Moorpark bin Town Hall Buildings on Friday, 17th February, where 40 members and visitors were present despite the fact of a very wet night. 3KE occupied the first half of the evening and was well received and dispensed in record quick time. The club is now affiliated with the W.I.A. (Vic. Division) and has also applied for a transmitting licence. After a cordial welcome to the visitors by the President, the evening was devoted to a series of short subjects screened were well selected and highly instructive. The subject being "The Radio Valve," "Electrona," "Sound Waves," "Receivers" (strange to say) and "Crystal Sets." The evening concluding a selection of musical shorts were shown.

As everybody should know, the third post-war Convention of the Eastern Zone was held at Morven on Saturday and Sunday, 28th and 29th January. Through some amazing oversight of the weather controller, the week-end was fine and warm and about 5 p.m. the gang started to roll up at the local recreation hall.

The some boys meet in person, mostly after a space of 12 months, and little groups lost no time in ear bashing. The OM from the Mountaine, with whom we couldn't think of holding a Convention was amongst the first arrivals. SWE came from the Strathgordon where he had been a housemaster, and the Strathgordon where the headmaster had been gathered at Secretary, Graham Colley's (3Q2) highly salubrious new home, on the Princess Highway way, Rob Sandon (SAB5) and Len Simmons (3LV) and their XYLs were there from Melbourne after a long absence of Graham's shack, we (I was with me) on top, David) all set forth along the road to Morwell.

Ian Sewen and his XYL were introduced to us upon arrival, also Geoff Wooley (3VJ), his XYL and Ron Hingebottom (3RN) were in the car. Geoff was a bit of a scandal, found out that Ian (3IK) had been booked into a double room at the local with his XYL. Now as far as the boys knew he had no idea of the scandal, but he was a bit of a scoundrel for absolute decentness (we admit it), thought Ian should marry the girl first and the suggestion was made that they should get a long before we called in Bill (3WE) who, as you all know, is a newspaper reporter with many years of experience assisting the North East Mounted among the wilds of the North East. He was a bit of a scoundrel, straightened out. It all finished up by discovering the double room should have been booked for Ian and his XYL, but as no one would believe a poor Ian for ever will be 54.

After we all inspected the latest creations of Keith Heitsch (31IK), and watched him making calls on 6 metres with his mobile gear, we talked some more, then went into the hall where the dinner commenced punctually 45 minutes late. Ron Lister (3PR), President, welcomed everyone—and he didn't, because he came late. He was followed by 3SS, as Vice-President, to do that and after making a marvellous speech, all sat down and talked some more, also ate. 3PR came a few minutes later with a splendid excuse—had to milk the cows first. The dinner was good, as it always is at our Conventions. The speeches were good, but the serious parts, like the lowest times, were said by all the speakers, and I'm sure we all think the world of each other.

[illegible]

Having passed through the eating and toasting stage, the tables were cleared and we prepared to talk. The agenda was then tackled and officers for the year were elected. The new President was Howard Vinning, the boys made him President. The new Vice-President was chosen, one 3TH, Gordon, from Yinnah. The most natural man for the job was elected as Secretary for health is Na, a fellow Secretary. This is the tough job everywhere, and we were lucky when he agreed to carry on. Oreste Kellie was the president, and the boys elected him. Correspondence with Howard Vinning (3VG) will be his assistant. Howard is from Sale, so we will be getting a lot about the place. There are about 5 or 6 Hams in that place and a little "tip," you might meet them all at our next convention and see them at work and play. Most of the boys are from the 3TH. The 3TH is the 3WE is the W.I.A. liaison officer, with 3PR his

Zone hook-ups.—It was decided to continue on 3650 Kc. at 2000 hours every Sunday, and we intend to run more portable field days and contests during the year. The time for our next Convention was FIXED at 25th and 26th November, 1950, at three places were proposed, namely, Omeo, Lake Entrance and Sale. Everything points towards Sale being the chosen spot, but wherever it is, it is going to be a good one.

Around midnight the zone XYLE, who had returned from a motion picture extravaganza at the local picture palace, served up a nice supper, most the handiwork of themselves. One thing we missed was the precious beer. The zone ZWE, who had been eating this c.e.s. with a cup of Milo every Sunday night while the zone hook-up is taking itself the closing stages, and we all expected to be served a bit of it at the zone hook-up, had brought the rock bun or something, but not a beer. The girls finally dispersed to the various rooms. ZWE, ERL and Junior OP. 3ABS and XYL spent the night at 302's and believe it or not, breakfast in bed was served by the Colley and Mrs. Sanderson. Wonderful girls they are.

To hasten on—I'm getting writer's cramp—I all went back to Morwell that Sunday morning where 3BB and 3TH conducted everyone around the new works at Morwell. Everyone was quite awed at the immensity of operations in preparation for the new open cuts and briquette factory plus railway lines, canals, roads, workshops, hostels, etc. It was all well worth seeing, and we were especially impressed by the work being done with the huge earth moving machines.

Dinner, prepared by our zone ladies, was disposed of, then we set out to visit Yalloum at the Maryvale Paper Mill. Just as we were leaving the Big Bend Hotel, a large SW wind sprang up with his XYL and Jar. Ops. joined us. First saw the paper making machine at the mill. It's about 100 yards long and a marvelous device. Then we saw more of the machinery at work after the vast electrical machinery at the mill conducted our tour and our regret was lack of time to see more of the U.S. radiating station. Yalloum conducted us around the mill and at various parts of the huge underground. Being Sunday, we could not see inside the plants, but our guide pointed out the various parts of the power works. These inspections were exceptionally interesting and impressive, and they alone would make the convention worth coming to. Remember, our tour was conducted by the ladies of the Zone. All good things come to an end so after getting our pictures taken with the "beaut" trophy held in the foreground, afternoon tea was served and the convention adjourned for the hour or so, then broke up till November.

Various groups gathered at the district shack that night and the zone hook-up took place as usual. Nothing ever stops if you know. About 11:30 p.m. I was in the room with the group when the fact that I was looking after the trophy, No. 1, the last I saw of it was on the bench in the upper part of the room. I saw it on the bench and the group couldn't get over how wonderful their better half were. So I firmly denied any knowledge of it whereabouts and so did the groups at 3BB as well as the group at 3BZ. I was told that I was "missing."

So crime reporter William's assistant (located at 3QZ) was again urgently requested and thus began the first radio investigation. As the radio investigation was in progress, most everybody grew excited and worried, fearful that it was still in the supper room at the hall. Morwell, and naturally the first one to spot it, was the first to get up and go to the room where the case was broken down and solved. It seemed one person whom I referred to above as a wonderful girl, isn't quite so wonderful after all for M. 3QZ, the one who took the trophy, was the one in a tea towel and smuggled it home. The confiding her secret in the things take her choice of the things they take their own way until we found it missing.

That about completes the outline of the convention which everyone seemed well pleased with. Full credit and thanks are due to BBB and with their XYL and sister respectively, for the fine job they did in organizing the convention at the catering establishment with a staff of 30. Thanks also for their valuable assistance. SALS and SDE for organizing the inspections, and all the zone ladies who gave their useful valuable help with the catering and in supplying their home-baked cakes. Look forward to the November Convention boys and girls and join in the evening night hook-up on 3650 Kc. We would especially welcome all from the Peninsular Sub-Branch.

Your correspondent, 3A1HK, was unfortunately unable to be present at the zone convention, but our new President (388) has written the following report on the show. 3US/3VL are getting the new hardware in order; 3ZL and 3ZB are saying that the cars are handy for putting on the road. We expect that on 18th February a 50 Mc. three way race took place between 3ACL, 3ZB and 7XLA per ground wave. 3WE disclaims any responsibility for the results. 3ZL is planning to make a Bill show on 513 during a heavy thunderstorm. 3A1HK hopes to be on the air soon, is building a m. shack. 3MR is very QRL on the farm, but has Type 3 on c.w. occasionally, is also waiting for

3TH is using 807s in his new modulator and has relays operating the v.f.o. and modulation.



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## BRIGHT STAR RADIO

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The QSL officer, 6BU, reported on the successful functioning of the Bureau, which, incidentally, holds a high place in the opinions of overseas Hamers, one going so far as to say it is the best in VKI. Over a period of two years the Bureau has been on the right side of the ledger and members express universal approval of the sticker system. The President, Mr. J. H. Crooks, said that the Bureau is the efficient working of all officer-bearers and committees in the Division.

After some further discussion, the scrutineers declared the ballot and gave to members their new Council of 1905. The members are: A. J. Dockel, 6WH; R. W. Hugo, 6KW; W. E. Coxon, 6AG; B. Sorley, 6RO; G. Moss, 6GM; J. J. Rumble, 6BU; M. Murray, 6MR; S. J. Jones, 6J; and G. W. Ashley, 6GA. This concluded the business for the evening and the meeting closed. A point of interest about this Council election was that from 140 Hamers took part in filling in ballot papers, only 53 got round to submitting them.

## PERSONALITIES

Considerable activities over near the railway in Carlisle, C.V.Z. thinks trouble is fast approaching. Some unimaginative type has planted an 80 foot tower exactly opposite Dick's QTH and he has heard there will be some real high voltage a.c. strung on it. Some of his friends are saying it is a joke, but back one room—it won't be far enough Dick! Seems to be a fair bit of moving going on in the Ham community. 6DN has been seen in the vicinity of the prospect of the d.c. up at Meckering—never mind John, contact 6GU who seems to have settled in his new QTH at Boulder. 6XI is said to be planning to buy a Dariusup. 6HT has reached Georgetown to spend his vacation up that way.

Ham Radio is still running a bad second at 6AS where the joy of motoring has, we hope, only temporarily supplanted the joy for DX. Alva found time, however, to submit his cards for W.A.C. Another to invest in four wheels is 6CM. When does the ten metre mobile start up? Billy 6DW has made his W.A.S. on 10 Mc. at last by a contact with 5DJ in Alice Springs. 6SN has been investigating the capabilities of motor cycles to run without oil (unintentionally, of course, he didn't notice a broken chain on the motor). Saw that beam of 6TP the other evening. It certainly looks a nice job Peter, but just how did you get it up there?

Heard 6OR getting out OK on ten these days, and 6STG doing well on his new QTH. 6WJ is ending on forty revealed 6AP who has now given ten metres away until things improve. Alfa even pulled the beam down. 6AU, Ivan Norman, heard 6WJ on 10 Mc. and 6WZ has had an interesting, a belated post-war debut is 6DH, Dave Hardy. Both these chaps have had their licenses for some years and are only just getting around to some real QSOing. 6WZ has had an enforced holiday from Ham Radio of three weeks due to a fall in what Baby Bunnings. Harry says that 6DH is about ready to 6CM first, Cyril is already in the a.c. area. 6EL recalls about six weeks should see him with some real a.c. to play with. In the meantime, Ern is doing fine work with his 10 watts with countries worked at 60 and zones 25. When the bands are dead a new converter is taking shape.

6DX, of Kalgoorlie, is getting around over there in the 10 Mc. band. 6HMS has been in contact with Bill. Another name on my list has now become a personality—6LR, who has been heard regularly on 40 with some really first class openings. Heard 6LR, Kalgoorlie, 7JL on Pres. often these days on 40 using both phone and c.w. Glad to see someone still appreciates the old code. Billy 6TB seen making purchases which could be taken as a sign that he does not come to the best of luck with it. 6HR has built up the new famous Clapp oscillator with pleasing results. Lou is now hard at work on plans to re-amp his beam to cover 14 Mc.

## TASMANIA

### ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Royal Society Rooms, Museum, at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 4th March. Len Jensen, 7JL, our President, took the chair and presented the annual report. Bob O'Mear, 7OM, was voted, upon Council nomination, as an honorary member of £15/5/- in appreciation of his unflinching enthusiasm and devotion to carrying on simultaneously, the three offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Ballot Manager.

While 7GR and 7SJ were scrutinising the ballot papers for positions of President and Council, other officer-bearers were elected by nomination. The officer-bearers for 1955-56 are as follows: President: Mr. L. J. Crooks, 7BQ; President: Mr. J. Clark, 7BJ; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. L. Jensen, L. Clark, Cruise and Brooks; Council: Messrs. Brown, Fulton, Batchelor, and O'Mear. With the exception of Mr. O'Mear as Federal Councilor unopposed. R. D. O'Mear collected the posts of Secretary and Treasurer again,

and relieving Traffic Manager, that post going to T. Allen, who also takes on the QSL Bureau again. Northern-Western: Councilor: D. Fisher; Northern Councilor: C. Wright; V.H. Officer: D. Alderson; Show Morse: J. H. Crooks; Publicity: P. Fulton; Publicity Manager and Divisional Sub-Editor: G. Clarke.

Present at the meeting were thirty which is somewhat disappointing in view of the importance of this occasion. Those attending included: V.K.Z.: AF, AG, AJ, AL, BH, BJ, BM, DH, EJ, FJ, FM, GR, JB, KA, LD, LE, LJ, LM, MC, ON, OJ, PA, RK, SD, SJ, SK, TA, YL, LD, Lom, M. J. Crooks, 7AB. The dinner enticed 56 along including visitors and country members, in a different venue from 1948. The North-West boys delayed the routine and claimed to have exceeded their top speed by 10 m.p.h. over the concluding stretches. Len, 7KB, must have "doctored" the car up a bit. They arrived just in time to part consume the second feast, not that any assistance was needed, as certain members seemed to be assisting themselves and undoubtedly contributed to the early demise of the second leg. Such behaviour was not a credit to the Institute. The few dozen bottles of soft drink on the tables were also finished early, and methinks next year should be better. The delay in the routine was by the bottle. It was a warm night, too, which didn't exactly help things along. It fairly rushed them.

At the dinner we had representatives from VK6, VK7, and 64 besides the Burnie gang, Launceston and local country members. 6DX, 4ZU, and 3BE with friend, Cyril Looker, all gave replies to "The Visitors' and "The Institute" respectively. Initially by Mr. T. Weeks, a.i.e. of VII, and also according to the printed programme, by 3BE, who represented the South-Western Victorian Zone. Official members of the Institute were: Mr. J. H. Crooks, 7AB, President; Mr. C. M. Carroll, Senior Inspector; Mr. E. Larsen, also N.I. Dept.; Mr. T. Weeks, O.T.C.; and Mr. W. C. Gee, P.M.G. Dept.

In proposing the toast to the Institute, the Senior Radio Inspector, Mr. Carroll, outlined the achievements of the Institute in the past, and its excellent record in the future. He spoke for half. Mention was made of the value of the Amateur Service in times of civil and military emergency. For the future the Amateur would have the problem of L.V. and L.T. interference to v.h.f. services to overcome, and all his resources would be needed to overcome these future troubles. Though 6WJ, 6TP, and 6WZ were mentioned, said Mr. Carroll, "regardless of the case." The President, Mr. Jensen, 7JL, mentioned the theme of co-operation between the Institute and the Department and the Institute's contribution to a past issue of "QST," a parody based on the Ten Commandments of Morse on the Mount. This is reproduced in full in January, 1946, "A.R." in the 1946 issue.

In proposing the P.M.G. Dept., Mr. Ted Cruise, 7EJ, emphasised the cordial relations existing between the Department and the Amateur body as a whole and exposed the hope that these would continue in the future in the same or a better mode. In responding, the Supt. of Wireless, Mr. Dunne, reviewed the work of the Advisory Committee in enhancing these relations and in relieving the Department of the job of clearing up minor offences, and in acting as an effective liaison body between the Department and the Institute. An example was given. Mention was made of the desire of the Department that the Amateur Station should consist of up-to-date, modern, tidy, and efficient equipment, and that the practice could well be improved upon, particularly the "100 CQs without signing" sort of thing, and transmission without first checking that the channel is clear. This sort of thing only makes the work of the Amateur Radio in other spheres, such as bushfire, flood and other emergency work, Mr. Dunne said.

Other toasts were "professionals," proposed by Mr. Ben Fulton, 7AF, with the response from Mr. W. C. Gee, of the I.R.E. and the country members, proposed by Mr. J. Batchelor, 7JB, with responses from Ray Kilby, 7KN, and Dr. Ian Pearson, 7KB.

The dinner proved very successful and in conjunction with it a competition for the construction of equipment of an auxiliary nature was held. The panel of judges consisting of Messrs. Carroll (R.I.), Larsen (R.I.), and Weeks (O.T.C.). The judging proved very close and the prize money was in fact a crystal calibrated frequency meter. Third was Mr. Sidbottom whose field strength meter won a 150 Ma. meter, and fourth was Len Edwards, whose frequency meter won a 100 Ma. meter.

The field day held on the Sunday produced some interesting competition to find the hidden transmitter on 144 Mc, first in being 7BJ, with 7BH,

and 7KB in close tow. Yours truly opened both envelopes in the end and arrived on the last gap.

Well, fellows I shall miss the mail if I ramble on, and I'm sure I wouldn't be forgiven a second time, especially two months running, so guess this about closes the notes for this month. 7KB has been heard boasting about his new beam, 14 db of compression and 80 with a.c. and a 100 watt carrier, etc., etc. 73 till next month.

## NORTHERN ZONE

The Tasmanian Division's Annual Meeting and Dinner was held in Hobart and unfortunately only 7BK, 7JL and Perc Crawford were able to make the trip from this zone. At the meeting, 7JL and 7BK were presented with 40 of Remembrance Day Certificates and 7FF, another zone member, was elected v.h.f. officer for this Division.

The highest honour that the W.I.A. can award was conferred on Mr. Len Crooks, VK6QJ, who has done for Ham Radio in Tasmania and on behalf of the Northern Zone we say congratulations Len and best wishes for many more years of Ham Radio.

Activity on the lower frequencies is still below normal. On 7 Mc. 7XW, 7BQ and 7MO can often be heard on 7 Mc. usually keeping their various a.c.s, whilst on 14 Mc. 7BK and 7JL can sometimes be heard, mostly on c.w. keeping watch for the unusual DX. 7JL usually keeps his eyes peeled to contact an PCS on Corsica and the best ones at 7JL were FB8AX, AC3SQ, YIUW and 5T2RD, all in the evenings.

Most activity was, however, concentrated on 144 Mc. with 7FF, 7DB and Rex Summers testing and re-testing their gear for the trip to Mount Harrow, 1644 feet, from which they contacted Mount Wellington, a distance of over 100 miles. At the next zone meeting, 7FF is to give a talk on the equipment used, also their experiences. The meeting was held at the Kings Hall, Launceston, at 8 p.m. on Friday, 14th April.

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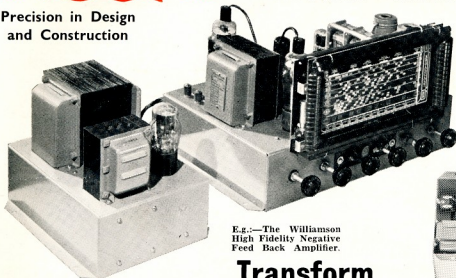
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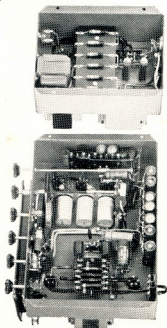
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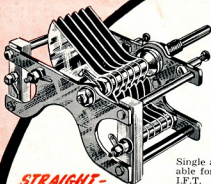
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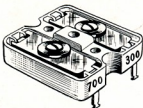


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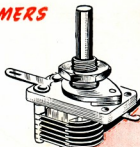
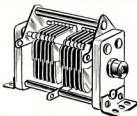


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